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In re Application of:

Yoji SERIZAWA

Application No.: 09/927,540

Filed: August 13, 2001

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS EQUIPPED
WITH DETACHABLE PROCESS CARTRIDGE
AND CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR

Docket No. 03500.015681

Examiner: S.L. Brase

Group Art Unit: 2852

Date: May 24, 2004

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MAY 26 2004

TECH CENTER 2800

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Supplemental Comments on Previously Filed Information Disclosure Statement in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	8	MINUS	8	0	x \$9 \$18	\$ -0-
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	2	0	x \$43 \$86	-0-
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$140/\$280						
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT---						\$ -0-

☐ ,°Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.


☐ Charge \$____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the fee for a __ month extension is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.

☒ Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.



Attorney for Applicant
Michael J. Didas
Reg. No. 55,112

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MJD/ksp

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03500.015681



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Yoji SERIZAWA) Examiner: S.L. Brase
Application No.: 09/927,540) Group Art Unit: 2852
Filed: August 13, 2001)
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SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS ON PREVIOUSLY
FILED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Before further examination on the merits, Applicant having requested on February 24, 2004, a three-month suspension of action, and the request having been approved, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 8-11 and 13-16 are pending in the application, with claims 8 and 13 being independent. Claims 8, 13, and 16 were amended by Preliminary Amendment, filed February 24, 2004.

According to an aspect of Applicant's invention, independent claim 8 recites an image forming apparatus to which a process cartridge is detachably attachable, the process cartridge including an element relating to image formation. The image forming apparatus includes an image forming unit adapted to drive the process cartridge to form an image and a switching unit adapted to switch an image forming condition of the image forming unit on the basis of an accumulation of a drive time of the process cartridge. When the accumulation of the drive time reaches a predetermined value, the switching unit switches the image forming condition at a timing which is not during performing a job for forming a plurality of images.

In another aspect, Claim 13 relates to a control method for an image forming apparatus and recites, inter alia, the steps of counting a drive time of the process cartridge driven in the image forming apparatus, determining whether an accumulation of the drive time counted in the counting step reaches a predetermined value, and switching an image forming condition of the image forming apparatus at a timing which is not during performing a job for forming a plurality of images when it is determined in the determining step that the accumulation of the drive time reaches the predetermined value.

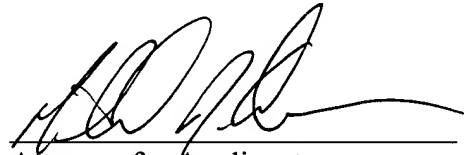
Applicant submits that Japanese Reference No. 11-202572 ("the '572 reference", cited by Applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 30, 2003) fails to teach or suggest many of these features. The '572 reference is directed to an image processor, an image processing method, and a storage medium and is understood to teach that a drive time of a photosensitive drum is counted and an image forming condition is switched based on the count value. However, nowhere does the '572 reference teach or suggest at least that the image forming condition is switched at a timing which is not

during performing a job for forming a plurality of images, as recited in each of independent claims 8 and 13.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention, as defined in independent claims 8 and 13, is patentably defined over the '572 reference. Favorable consideration of these claims, as well as the dependent claims, and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Didas', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Michael J. Didas
Registration No. 55,112

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MJD/ksp